

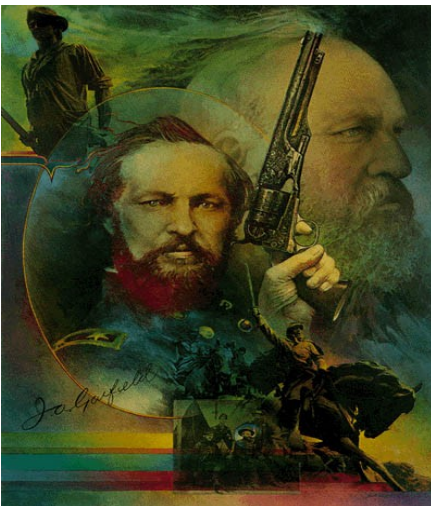


# The Garfield Telegraph

Volume 1 • Issue 2 • January 2012

## Civil War Programming to be Plentiful in 2012 at James A. Garfield National Historic Site

The year 2012 marks the second year of the nation's commemoration of the Civil War's 150th anniversary (2011-2015). This year will bring a full slate of Civil War programming to James A. Garfield National Historic Site. The avid and casual Civil War enthusiast alike will find something of interest at the site this year.



The Civil War was a major event in the life of James A. Garfield. When the war began, he was Principal of the Western Reserve Eclectic Institute (now Hiram College) and an Ohio state senator. By late summer 1861, he was a Colonel of volunteers and commander of the 42nd Ohio Infantry. Garfield received promotion to Brigadier General and commanded an infantry brigade. Later, he served as Chief of Staff to the Army of the Cumberland. Eventually promoted

to Major General, he resigned his commission in late 1863 to take a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served for the rest of the Civil War and until elected to the presidency in 1880.

James A. Garfield NHS will continue its observation of the war's sesquicentennial with a number of relevant programs this year. We have partnered with the Mentor Public Library to host a monthly series of lunchtime talks on "Major Battles of the Civil War." Beginning in January, these talks will be held the second Wednesday of each month at 12 p.m. at the library's main branch (8215 Mentor Ave.). Subjects will include the battles of Middle Creek (Jan. 11), Forts Henry and Donelson (Feb. 8), Hampton Roads (Mar. 14), Shiloh (Apr. 11), and more as the year progresses.



The site will continue to offer its popular Civil War Tour on the third Saturday of each month. This expanded 90-minute



tour of the property focuses exclusively on Garfield's time as a soldier. Please call 440-255-8722 to make reservations. Our annual Presidents Day event (Feb. 20) will focus on presidents who served the Union during the Civil War. Kids will want to sign up for the "Garfield Mini Militia," a new program that will be held three times during the summer (Jun. 9, Jul. 14, Aug. 11) and will introduce those ages 5-12 to marching and drilling like Civil War soldiers. Our annual Civil War encampment will take place Jul. 14-15. This popular event brings dozens of Civil War reenactors and thousands of visitors to the site each year to learn more about how Northern and Southern troops lived, fought, played, and died.

For the latest news and information about James A. Garfield National Historic Site's Civil War programs, please call the site at 440-255-8722. Visit us on the web at [www.nps.gov/jaga](http://www.nps.gov/jaga). Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GarfieldNPS](http://www.facebook.com/GarfieldNPS). Follow the site on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/GarfieldNPS](http://www.twitter.com/GarfieldNPS).

# Mollie's Piano

by Park Guide Joan Kapsch

Mary “Mollie” Garfield was born in Washington, D.C. on January 16, 1867. The fourth of James and Lucretia Garfield’s seven children, she was named Mary after her father’s sister, Mary Garfield Larrabee. The first Garfield child, a girl named Eliza, died in 1863, so Mollie joined two brothers: Harry, born in 1863, and James, born in 1865. Three more brothers followed Mollie: Irvin in 1870, Abram in 1872, and Edward (called “Neddie”) in 1874. Neddie died just before his second birthday in 1876.

Surrounded as she was by brothers, it was probably inevitable that Mollie would be what her grandmother termed “a real tomboy...saucy as a rough boy.” She began learning French at age five, learned sewing from her mother, and took pride in her fine penmanship. When she was ten, Mollie received her first piece of jewelry, an enameled locket, as a Christmas gift from her parents. At the age of twelve, she told her diary, “I have begun to walk with a book on my head for five or ten minutes

every day—for I must confess I like to see a woman walk nicely.” The tomboy gradually turned into a young lady.

The year Mollie turned thirteen—1880—brought many changes to the Garfield family. James A. Garfield was elected to the U.S. Senate on January 13 and attended a reception in the state capitol the next day. By Mollie’s birthday on the 16th, Garfield was back in Washington, D.C., where he recorded, “About fifty children came to attend a party given by Mollie and the two older boys. A pleasant gathering with dancing and lunch which lasted until midnight. Fanny and Scott Hayes, the President’s children, were here and a very pleasant company of young people.” For her birthday gift, Mollie’s parents promised her a new piano.

Among the Garfield papers is an invoice to General Garfield dated February 6, 1880 for *two* Hallett Davis upright pi-



anos. The total cost for the two was \$1,600, a very substantial sum. But with a discount, a trade-in, and an earlier down payment, the final cost on the invoice was \$335. We cannot be sure when the pianos were delivered, but on February 26, 1880, James and Lucretia Garfield were in Mentor to discuss expanding their nine-room house. Garfield’s diary entry for that day states, “We went to our house and spent the forenoon in making a careful examination of the frame of it and devising the best means for raising the upper story and making repairs...spent the afternoon removing the furniture and crockery into the library [campaign office], taking the piano to Mrs. King’s to be left until we returned.” On March 19, Mrs. Garfield received a receipt from Sumner Piano for the \$335 paid in full, and another invoice for \$12.20 for “the expenses on the piano from Boston to your parlor, [and] return of piano...now in your parlor.” So, by mid-March one piano had been delivered to Mentor and moved to a friend’s home for safekeeping during construction, and the other was delivered to the Garfields’ home in Washington where it replaced the square piano in the parlor.

By June, the Mentor house expansion was complete, and the furniture and crockery returned. As the family put the house in order, James A. Garfield became the Republican presidential nominee, and his home would become the site of the nation’s first “front porch” presidential campaign. Many visitors and reporters described Garfield’s home that summer, and Mollie’s piano is seen in several magazine and newspaper images of the parlor. Today, the parlor piano is a favorite artifact of many visitors.

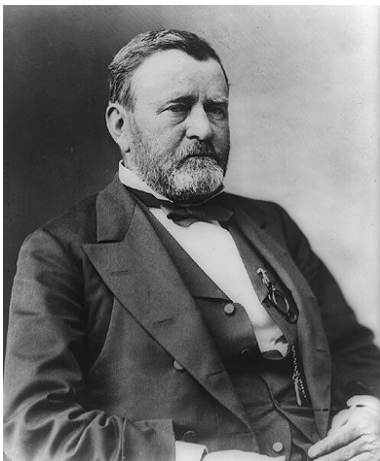


# **Presidents Day is Monday, February 20**

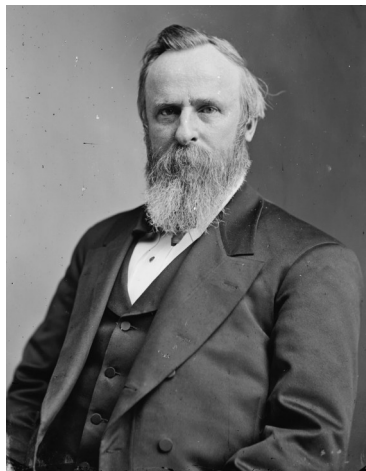
## **CIVIL WAR PRESIDENTS**

In recognition of Presidents Day, James A. Garfield National Historic Site will be open to the public and fee-free on Monday, February 20, 2012. Visit the site to learn more about the men that served the Union in uniform during the Civil War before entering politics and, eventually, the White House. Activities will include ranger talks, presidential trivia, and games just for kids!

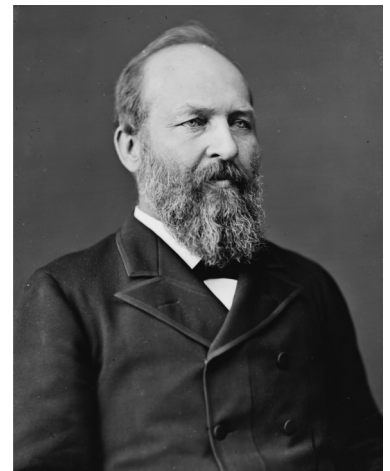
Want to learn more about these guys? Come visit on February 20! See you there!



Ulysses S. Grant  
18th President (1869-1877)



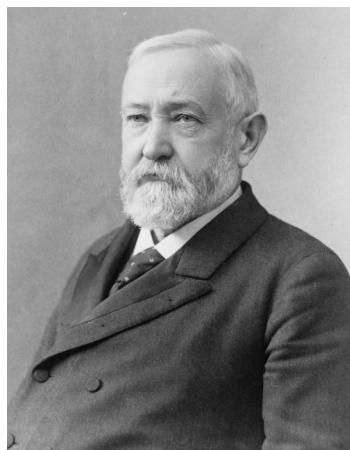
Rutherford B. Hayes  
19th President (1877-1881)



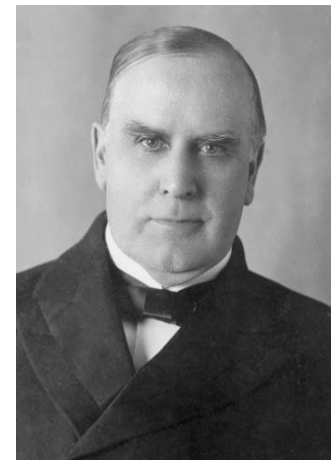
James A. Garfield  
20th President (1881)



Chester A. Arthur  
21st President (1881-1885)

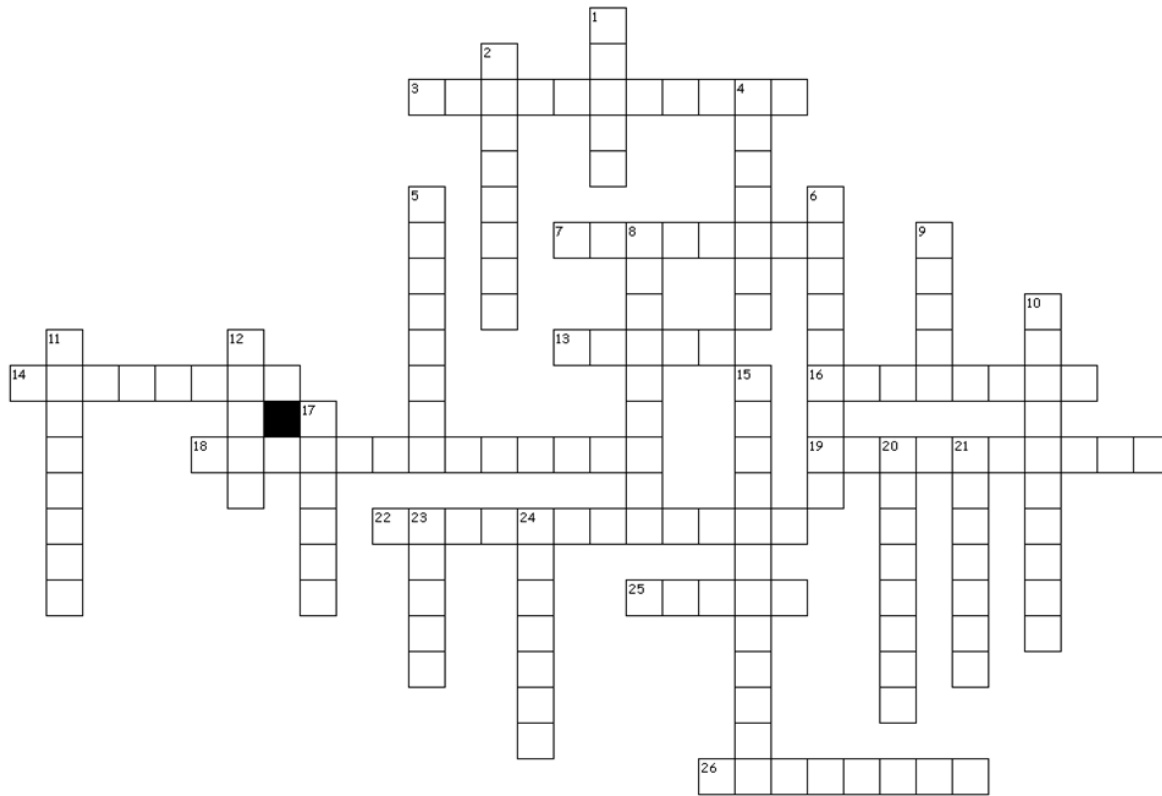


Benjamin Harrison  
23rd President (1889-1893)



William McKinley  
25th President (1897-1901)

# How well do you know the Garfield family?



## ACROSS

3. Civil War battle for which Garfield won national acclaim because of his daring ride through enemy fire
7. California city where Mollie and Joseph Stanley-Brown moved after Joseph joined the U.S. Geological Survey
13. Man who proposed that \$250,000 be raised by subscription for Mrs. Garfield and her children after the president's death
14. Queen of England that sent the wreath that is displayed in the Memorial Vault
16. James Rudolph Garfield served as Secretary of the \_\_\_\_ for President Theodore Roosevelt
18. Historic structure that the site's current Visitor Center used to be
19. Nickname of James and Lucretia's first born, Eliza Arabella
22. The highest rank Garfield achieved during the Civil War
25. Former president whose daughter was close friends with Mollie
26. Cemetery in which the Garfield Memorial is located

## DOWN

1. Musical instrument Mollie Garfield played
2. Massachusetts college from which Garfield and his four sons graduated
4. Man who shot the president in the back at the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Station in Washington D.C.
5. Garfield's greatest political opposition within the Republican Party
6. Name reporters called the Mentor Farm during the 1880 presidential campaign
8. Numbers of years Garfield served as a Congressman
9. Lucretia Garfield's nickname
10. Location from which Garfield gave speeches during his presidential campaign
11. Structure added to Mentor farm grounds in 1885 that pumped water up to the 300-gallon tank on the third floor of the home
12. Current name of the college James A. Garfield served as principal from 1857 to 1860
15. Location of world's fair the Garfield family visited in the summer of 1876
17. Garfield's vice president
20. Author of the poem "In Memoriam," the title of which Lucretia engraved above the fireplace in Garfield's study
21. President who advised Garfield to resign from the Union Army to take a seat in Congress
23. Garfield's son who became an architect
24. Lucretia Garfield's maiden name

**Need the answer key? E-mail  
jaga\_interpretation@nps.gov and  
we'll send it to you. Good luck!**



# Calling All Kids!



James A. Garfield NHS has an educational and fun Junior Ranger program for kids ages 4-12! Just ask the Park Ranger or Volunteer at the front desk for a copy the next time you visit the site. When you're done, return it to the desk and be "sworn in" as an official Junior Ranger and receive your certificate and badge!

Activities in the Junior Ranger book help kids dig a little deeper into Garfield history. Learn about the different trees on the property, figure out how to decipher telegraph messages, meet the Garfield family, and even write a newspaper article as a reporter covering Garfield's 1880 presidential campaign!



## A Message from the Superintendent

I hope this issue of *The Telegraph* finds you having enjoyed the holidays and looking forward to a great 2012.

The year 2011 was one of the busiest yet at James A. Garfield National Historic Site. We hosted nearly 40,000 visitors and dozens of well-attended special events. One constant here is the contributions of our dedicated volunteers. We simply could not accomplish anything here without the volunteers who so freely donate their time, expertise, talents, and ideas.

The National Park Service estimates one volunteer hour is worth \$21.36. In 2011, 263 volunteers provided us 4,027 hours of service...equivalent to more than \$86,000 of work. Whether working the front desk, leading tours of the Garfield home, helping with school groups, working special events, updating our Facebook page, or caring for the grounds, our volunteers always provide us with great service.

James A. Garfield NHS is always looking for new volunteers to share their creativity and time. Whether you are young or old, still in school or long retired, we can use your talents! Get in touch with our volunteer manager, Park Ranger Allison Powell, to learn more.

*-Sherda K. Williams*

**For more information about James A. Garfield NHS:**

[www.nps.gov/jaga](http://www.nps.gov/jaga)

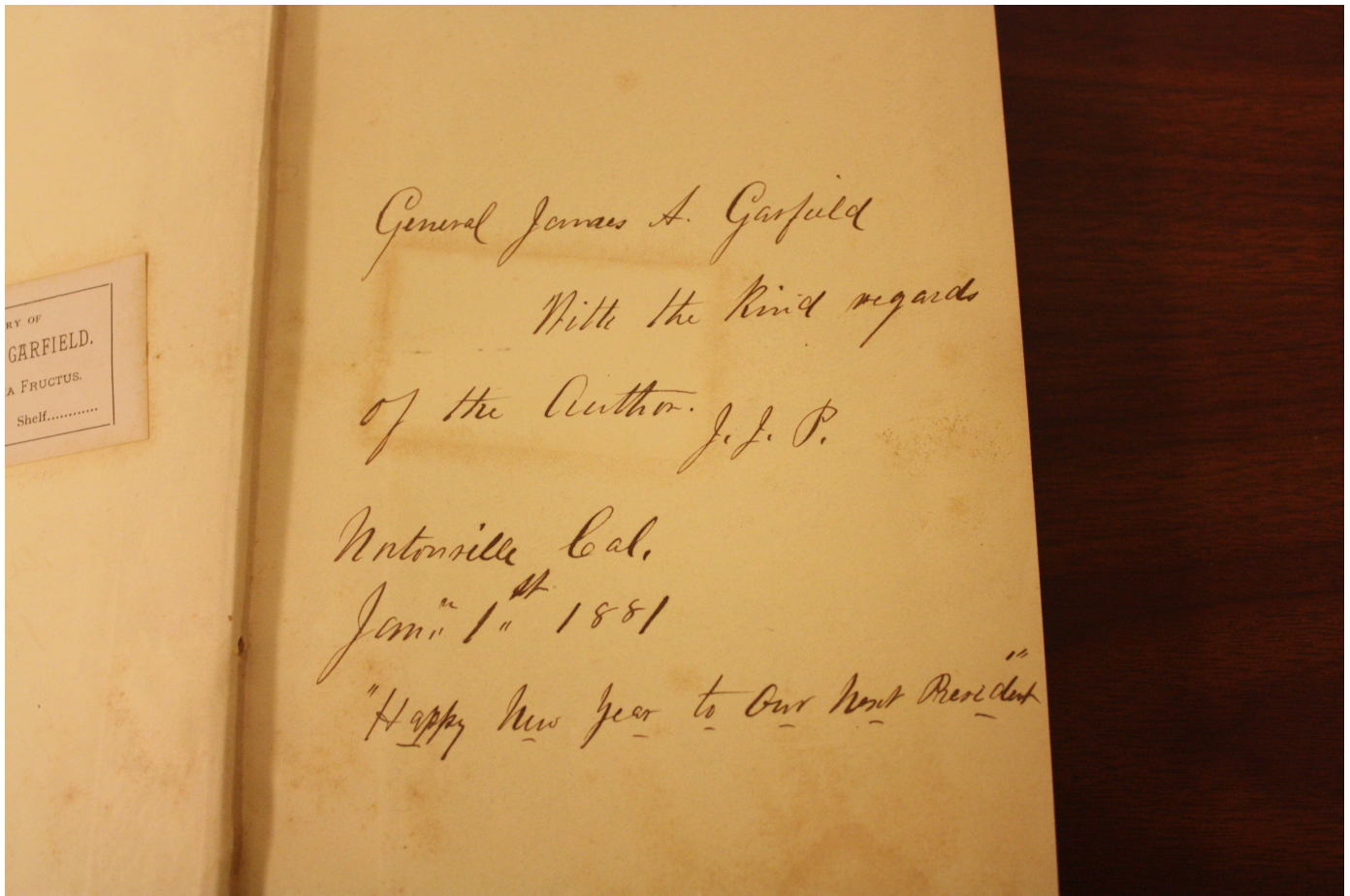
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# Happy New Year?



This photo shows the inscription in a book given to President-elect James A. Garfield on New Year's Day 1881. Garfield was just two months shy of taking the oath of office as the nation's twentieth president. The book, found in the collection at James A. Garfield NHS, is *Nevada: The Land of Silver*, by John J. Powell.

The inscription reads:

General James A. Garfield

With the kind regards

of the Author. J.J.P.

Nortonville, Cal.

Jan. 1st, 1881

"Happy New Year to Our Next President"

Garfield, his family, and the country certainly had reason to believe that 1881 would be a fine year. However, by the next time people greeted each other with "Happy New Year," when 1881 turned to 1882, James A. Garfield was dead and his family—and the nation—still mourned.